GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
BAN ON BT. COTTON IN ANDHRA PRADESH
Ponnuswamy Shri E.;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three varieties of Bt. Cotton approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in 2002 for Andhra Pradesh have been recently banned;

(b) if so, the names of the said varieties along with the reasons for banning them;

(c) whether GEAC has approved 18 new hybrids of Bt. Cotton for planting in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether GEAC has found the proof of successful seed production of above seeds;

(f) if so, the names of Institute which have given the certificates;

(g) whether adequate market is available for Bt. Cotton in India; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the interest of Bt. Cotton growing farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND F0RESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 BY SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" AND SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY REGARDING "BAN ON BT. COTTON IN ANDHRA PRADESH" DUE FOR REPLY ON 1-08-2005.

(a) & (b) The GEAC did not renew the permission granted in 2002 for commercial cultivation of the three Bt Cotton varieties namely MECH 12 Bt, MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt in respect of Andhra Pradesh because of its overall unsatisfactory performance in the State as reported by them.

(c) & (d) The GEAC has approved 17 new Bt Cotton varieties for commercial cultivation for a period of three years. List of approved varieties for various zones is at Annexure -I.

(e)&(f) The Bt seeds were extensively tested in the contained and multi-locational trials under supervision of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) as per the detailed guidelines and procedures framed for the purpose. Subsequent to this, Bt seeds were put under the large scale field trials of the GEAC as well as under the Indian Council of Agriculture & Research (ICAR) testing system. The large-scale field trials and ICAR trials have been evaluated by the Monitoring−cum−Evaluation Committee (MEC) and the Indian Council of Agriculture & Research respectively. The GEAC has taken into consideration the recommendations of the MEC and ICAR while approving the Bt variety for commercial cultivation.

(g) & (h) The overall area under Bt. Cotton has increased over the last three years as reported by the Bt. Cotton growing States. The detailed State wise statement is at Annexure II. To protect the interests of Bt. Cotton growing farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is implementing a scheme known as National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), which covers cotton crop, including Bt Cotton. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has organized a number of training cum awareness workshops to sensitize the farmers on the benefits and management of Bt cotton as well as the potential risk associated with illegal Bt Cotton seeds. MOA and MoEF have advised the Bt. Cotton growing states to take necessary punitive action against the producers and vendors of illegal Bt Cotton seeds under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Seed (Control) order, 1983. To assist the State Governments in controlling the release of spurious seeds, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as the referral laboratory for detecting the presence / absence of Bt. genes. The institute has also developed a simple and cheap testing kit for quick verification of Bt gene in cotton.

Annexure-I

ANNEXURE I REFFERED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 BY SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH " LALAN" AND SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY REGARDING "BAN ON BT. COTTON IN ANDHRA PRADESH" DUE FOR REPLY ON 1-08-2005.

Bt Cotton varieties approved for commercial cultivation in the various zones.

S.NO	Name of Hybrids	Name of Company	Zone
1	NCS – 207 Mallika	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	Central & South
2	NCS – 145 Bunny	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	Central & South
3	RCH 2 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	Central & South
4	RCH –144 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	Central
5	RCH –118 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	Central
6	RCH - 138 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	Central
7	RCH – 20 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	South
8	RCH – 368 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	South
9	RCH – 134 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	North
10	RCH – 317 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	North
11	MRC – 6322 Bt	M/s Mahyco	South
12	MRC – 6918 Bt	M/s Mahyco	South
13	MRC – 6301 Bt	M/s Mahyco	Central & North
14	MRC – 6304 Bt	M/s Mahyco	North
15	Ankur – 651 Bt	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	Central & North
16	Ankur 2534 Bt	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	North
17	Ankur – 09	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	Central

States covering each zone: Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Gujarat) South Zone (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu) and North Zone (Punjab, Rajasthan & Haryana)

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE II REFFERED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (g) & (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 BY SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH " LALAN" AND SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY REGARDING "BAN ON BT. COTTON IN ANDHRA PRADESH" DUE FOR REPLY ON 1-08-2005. -

Area under commercial cultivation of Bt Cotton in acres

States	Kharif 2002	Kharif 2003	Kharif 2004
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640
Total	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359